Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A method for treating diabetes, the method comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a composition ~~comprising a gastrin/CCK receptor ligand and a factor for complementing gastrin for islet neogenesis therapy (a FACGINT), provided that the FACGINT is not an EGF receptor ligand~~ according to claim 16 .

2. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the FACGINT is at least one factor selected from the group consisting of a Glucagon-like peptide 1 receptor ligand; a Glucagon-like peptide 2 receptor ligand; a gastric inhibitory polypeptide (GIP) receptor ligand; a keratinocyte growth factor (KGF) receptor ligand; a dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor; a REG protein receptor ligand; a Growth Hormone receptor ligand; a Prolactin (PRL) receptor ligand; an Insulin-like Growth Factor (IGF) receptor ligand; PTH-related protein (PTHrP) receptor ligand; hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) receptor ligand; a bone morphogenetic protein (BMP) receptor ligand, a transforming growth factor-β (TGF-β) receptor ligand; a laminin receptor ligand; vasoactive intestinal peptide (VIP) receptor ligand; a fibroblast growth factor (FGF) receptor ligand; ~~a keratinocyte growth factor receptor ligand;~~ a nerve growth factor (NGF) receptor ligand; an islet neogenesis associated protein (INGAP) receptor ligand; an Activin-A receptor ligand; a vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) receptor ligand; an erythropoietin (EPO) receptor ligand; a pituitary adenylate cyclase activating polypeptide (PACAP) receptor ligand; a granulocyte colony stimulating factor (G-CSF) receptor ligand; a granulocyte-macrophage colony stimulating factor (GM-CSF); a platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF) receptor ligand; and a Secretin receptor ligand.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the FACGINT comprises a Glucagon 1 - like peptide receptor ligand which is a GLP- 1 or exendin-4.

4. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein the FACGINT comprises a ~~Growth Hormone receptor ligand comprising a~~ Growth Hormone.

5. (Original) A method for treating diabetes, the method comprising: contacting *ex vivo* a plurality of cells with a composition comprising at least one FACGINT and a gastrin/CCK receptor ligand, provided that the FACGINT is not an EGF receptor ligand; and administering the cells to a mammal in need thereof, thereby treating the diabetes.

Claims 6-8 (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~either of~~ claims 1 ~~or 5~~, wherein the amount of the FACGINT in the composition is substantially less than the minimum effective dose of the FACGINT required to reduce blood glucose in the diabetic mammal in the absence of a gastrin/CCK receptor ligand.

10. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~either of~~ claims 1 ~~or 5~~, further comprising measuring a parameter selected from the group consisting of: blood glucose, serum glucose, blood glycosylated hemoglobin, pancreatic P cell mass, serum insulin, pancreatic insulin content, ~~and~~ morphometrically determined P cell mass, amount of insulin secreting cells, glucose responsiveness of insulin secreting cells, amount of proliferation of islet precursor cells, and amount of mature insulin secreting cells.

Claims 11-12 (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) A method for ~~inducing~~ increasing proliferation of pancreatic islet ~~neogenesis~~ precursor cell proliferation in a mammal, the method comprising administering to the mammal a composition ~~comprising a combination of a FACGINT and a gastrin /CCK receptor ligand provided that the FACGINT is not an EGF receptor ligand,~~ according to claim 16 in an amount sufficient to increase proliferation of islet precursor cells in pancreatic tissue~~, thereby inducing pancreatic islet neogenesis~~ of said mammal.

Claims 14-15 (Cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) A composition comprising a gastrin/CCK receptor ligand and a factor for complementing gastrin for islet neogenesis therapy (a FACGINT), provided that the FACGINT is not an EGF receptor ligand.

17. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A composition according to claim 16 in a dosage effective for inducing differentiation of an islet precursor cell into a mature insulin secreting cell.

Claim 18 (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) A kit for treating or preventing diabetes, the kit comprising a composition according to claim 16 ~~containing a composition comprising a gastrin/CCK receptor ligand and a FACGINT~~, a container, and instructions for use ~~, provided that the FACGINT is not an EGF receptor ligand~~.

Claim 20 (Cancelled)

21. (Currently amended) A method for expanding and differentiating stem cells into insulin secreting cells in a diabetic recipient of implanted cells, comprising implanting ~~the~~ stem cells in the recipient, and administering to the recipient a composition ~~containing an effective dose of each of a gastrin/CCK receptor ligand and at least one FACGINT provided that the FACGINT is not an EGF receptor ligand~~ according to claim 16.

Claims 22-31 (Cancelled)

32. (Currently amended) A method for reducing an amount of stem cells needed for transplantation to treat human diabetes, the method comprising administering to ~~the~~ a recipient in need thereof an effective dose of each of a gastrin/CCK receptor ligand and a FACGINT provided that the FACGINT is not an EGF receptor ligand, wherein the amount of cells needed is reduced in comparison to an amount of cells needed in the absence of administering the effective dose to an otherwise identical recipient.

Claims 33-46 (Cancelled)

47. (Currently amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition according to claim 16 further comprising ~~a FACGINT provided that the FACGINT is not an EGF receptor ligand and~~ an agent for immune suppression.

48. (Currently amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition according to claim 16 for sustained release ~~of an I.N.T." therapeutic composition, the composition comprising: a gastrin receptor ligand; and an EGF receptor ligand or a FACGNT;~~ wherein at least one of the gastrin receptor ligand~~; or the EGF receptor ligand~~ or FACGINT; is a sustained release formulation.

Claims 49-90 (Cancelled)

91. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 21 ~~for expanding and differentiating stem cells into insulin- secreting cells in a diabetic recipient of the cells, comprising: implanting the cells in the recipient; and administering~~ wherein the composition is a sustained release composition comprising an effective dose of each of: a gastrin/CCK receptor ligand; and a FACGINT ~~or an EGF receptor ligand~~, wherein the stem cells are expanded and differentiated into insulin secreting cells in the recipient.

92. (Currently amended) A composition according to claim 16 for treating diabetes, said composition comprising a Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor ligand and a gastrin/CCK receptor ligand.

Claims 93-97 (Cancelled)

98. (Currently amended) The compositions according to ~~any of~~ claims 92 ~~-97~~, wherein the gastrin is gastrin I having 17 amino acids with a Leu residue at amino acid position 15.

Claims 99-100 (Cancelled)

101. (Currently amended) A method of treating a diabetic subject comprising administering to

the subject a composition ~~comprising gastrin/CCKreceptor ligand and a Glucagon-like MP peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor ligand~~ according to claim 92.

Claims 102-107 (Cancelled)

108. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 21 wherein the cells are purified pancreatic islet cells and the ~~for expanding a~~ functional β cell mass of the pancreatic islet cells is expanded in the recipient ~~transplants in a diabetic patient recipient of a transplant of purified islets, the method comprising administering to the mammal an effective dose of a gastrinCCK receptor ligand and a FACGINT~~.

Claims 109-110 (Cancelled)